

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A device for dispensing a stack of coupon sheets each folded
2 having a forwardly leading flap, comprising:
3 a housing member having a chamber extending longitudinally therethrough
4 to contain the stack of coupon sheets and an opening formed in the
5 front end of said housing member to accept the forwardly leading flap
6 of each sheet, said housing member being further formed having a
7 plurality of longitudinal ribs extending through and surrounding the
8 chamber to guide the stack of coupons toward the opening in the front
9 end of said housing member; and
10 pusher means having a P-shaped head operatively disposed within said
11 housing member for urging the stack of coupon sheets longitudinally
12 through the chamber in a deflected manner guided by the longitudinal
13 ribs so that the forwardly leading flap of the outermost coupon sheet
14 projects outward through the opening.

1 2. A coupon dispensing device according to Claim 1, wherein said
2 housing member comprises:
3 a front cover having a rounded dispensing mouth formed at the opening of
4 the chamber; and
5 a rear housing section formed to engage said front cover and be releasably
6 connected thereto.

1 3. A coupon dispensing device according to Claim 2, wherein said
2 front cover further comprises:
3 an upper panel member positioned at the rounded dispensing mouth above
4 the opening and disposed in a first plane;
5 a lower panel member positioned at the rounded dispensing mouth below
6 the opening and disposed in a second plane recessed from the first
7 plane; and
8 a pair of edge panel members each having a rounded configuration and
9 projecting forwardly on opposite sides of the opening.

1 4. A coupon dispensing device according to Claim 3, wherein the
2 plurality of longitudinal ribs comprise:
3 a series of first ribs spaced apart along the top of said front cover and
4 extending forwardly to the upper panel member, said first ribs being
5 contoured in their forward extension to conform with the rounded
6 dispensing mouth of said front cover;
7 a series of second ribs spaced apart along the bottom of said front cover and
8 extending forwardly to the lower panel member; and
9 a series of third ribs spaced apart on either side of said front cover and
10 extending forwardly to opposite sides of the opening.

1 5. A coupon dispensing device according to Claim 1, wherein said
2 pusher means further comprises:
3 a pusher member operatively mounted within the chamber of said housing
4 member and formed having a cylindrical body extending from the rear
5 of the P-shaped head; and
6 a coil spring formed to fit within the cylindrical body of said pusher member
7 and operatively coupled to said housing member.

1 6. A coupon dispensing device according to Claim 5, wherein the
2 front surface of the P-shaped head is formed having an asymmetric
3 curvature, the upper portion thereof having a substantially semi-circular
4 profile and the bottom portion having a convex profile of larger radius than
5 the upper portion.

1 7. A coupon dispensing device according to Claim 5, wherein said
2 rear housing section comprises:
3 a pair of tang members extending along the top and bottom of said section to
4 releasably engage the front cover; and
5 a cylindrical core member projecting forwardly from said section, the core
6 member being formed to contain the coil spring of said pusher
7 member and keyed to engage the cylindrical body thereof.

1 8. A device for dispensing individual sheets of paper each folded
2 having a forwardly facing flap and grouped collectively in a stack,
3 comprising:
4 housing means having a longitudinal chamber for containing the stack of
5 sheets and a rectangular opening at one end of the chamber to remove
6 the sheets therefrom, the chamber further having a plurality of
7 longitudinal ribs surrounding the chamber and extending therethrough
8 to guide the stack toward the opening; and
9 pusher means having a P-shaped head operatively disposed within the
10 chamber of said housing means for urging the stack of sheets
11 forwardly through the chamber and along the longitudinal ribs in a
12 deflected manner so that the forwardly facing flap of each sheet
13 projects outward through the opening.

1 9. A dispensing device according to Claim 8, wherein said
2 housing means further comprises:
3 a front cover having a rounded dispensing mouth formed at the rectangular
4 opening of the chamber; and
5 a rear housing section formed to engage said front cover and be releasably
6 connected thereto.

1 10. A dispensing device according to Claim 9, wherein the rounded
2 dispensing mouth of said front cover comprises:
3 an upper panel member positioned above the rectangular opening and
4 disposed in a first plane;
5 a lower panel member positioned below the rectangular opening and
6 disposed in a second plane recessed from the first plane; and
7 a pair of edge panel members each having a rounded configuration and
8 projecting on either side of the rectangular opening.

1 11. A dispensing device according to Claim 10, wherein the
2 plurality of longitudinal ribs comprise:
3 a series of first ribs spaced apart along the top of the chamber and extending
4 to the upper panel member, said first ribs being contoured in their
5 forward extension to conform with the rounded dispensing mouth of
6 said front cover;
7 a series of second ribs spaced apart along the bottom of the chamber and
8 extending to the lower panel member; and
9 a series of third ribs spaced apart on either side of the chamber and
10 extending to opposite sides of the rectangular opening.

1 12. A dispensing device according to Claim 9, wherein said rear
2 housing section is formed having a pair of tang members extending from the
3 top and bottom thereof to releasably engage the front cover.

1 13. A dispensing device according to Claim 8, wherein said pusher
2 means further comprises:
3 a pusher member operatively mounted within the chamber of said housing
4 means and formed having a cylindrical body extending from the rear
5 of the P-shaped head; and
6 a coil spring formed to fit within the cylindrical body of said pusher member
7 and operatively coupled to said housing means.

1 14. A dispensing device according to Claim 13, wherein the front
2 surface of the P-shaped head is formed having an asymmetric curvature, the
3 upper portion thereof having a substantially semi-circular profile and the
4 bottom portion having a convex profile of larger radius than the upper
5 portion.

1 15. A dispensing device according to Claim 13, wherein said rear
2 housing section is further formed having a cylindrical core member
3 projecting forwardly therefrom, the core member being formed to contain
4 the coil spring of said pusher member and keyed to engage the cylindrical
5 body thereof.